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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 26, 2008

# Alaska Artists Awarded Solo Exhibits at State Museum

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Every two years the Alaska State Museum solicits Alaskan artists to submit their portfolios for solo exhibitions. This year the museum staff reviewed 40 submissions from artists across the state and selected ten individuals to show their work. The first of this series of solo exhibits will open in January 2009. The series will conclude in the spring of 2010. Dates for the individual exhibitions are still being arranged with the artists.

The selected artists are:

- Hall Anderson, Ketchikan photographer and journalist, who will present “news events that have happened in the region since 1983 through strong images that have artistic merit;”
- Annette Bellamy from Halibut Cove, who works in both wheel-thrown and hand-built clay sculpture;
- Bill Brody, a Fairbanks painter, planning to show *plein-air* paintings, on-site drawings, and panoramic photography reflecting a single year in the Alaskan wilderness;
- Katherine Coons, Anchorage painter and mixed media sculptor, whose work is inspired by her travels throughout Southeast Asia;
- Dan Fruits from Juneau, a painter working with oil, watercolor, and monoprints on themes that are Alaskan but are not limited to Southeast;
- Stephen Gray, photographer from Anchorage, who will show manipulated digital images from a series that explores “the dialectic between the ‘good little boy’ and the dark boundaries of the human psyche;”
- Stephen Jackson, Ketchikan sculptor, carver, and multimedia artist whose work “questions the parameters of what is Northwest Coast art and Native art”;
- Jeremy Kane, ceramist and instructor from Juneau, known for highly-crafted porcelain objects that “act as a canvas for his ideas about America;”
- Sue Kraft, a Juneau painter, plans to show a body of oil paintings “that reflect the area where I live; the town and the water, trees and mountains that surround it;” and
- Da-ka-xeen Mehner, photographer and sculptor from Fairbanks, who draws inspiration from the material culture of his Tlingit ancestors, and proposes an exhibit based on knife forms incorporating both objects and photographs.